

REMARKS

New claims 22 and 23 have been added.

Claims 1-9 and 18 have been canceled.

Claims 10-17 and 19-23 are pending for further examination.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing that claims 18-21 recite allowable subject matter.

New independent claim 22 has been added and includes some features of original independent claim 1 (now canceled) as well as features from original claim 18 (now canceled). In particular, claim 22 recites a switching regulator in which the reference voltage varies with a pulse signal of the control signal generating circuit, and is in substantially opposite phase to the output voltage of the DC-DC converter.

As explained in pars. [0017] and [0018], with this configuration, even when a capacitor with a low equivalent series resistance (e.g., a ceramic capacitor) is used as the output capacitor, it is possible to stabilize the operation of the switching regulator without degrading the stability of the output voltage of the switching regulator. An example is illustrated with respect to FIGs. 9 and 10B. The latter figure shows examples of waveforms of the output voltage (VO), the reference voltage (VREF) and the pulse signal (LG).

Applicant submits that claim 22 recites allowable subject matter and respectfully requests such favorable action.

Dependent claim 23 recites additional features of the control signal generating circuit. Some of these features were previously recited in claims 1, 2 and 18. The dependency of other claims has been changed in view of the cancellation of claims 1 and 2 and the addition of claim 23.

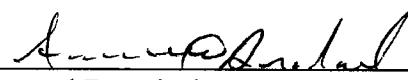
Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The Petition for Extension of Time fee in the amount of \$130 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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